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# IMPORT NEWS



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CANAL DAYS: 'It has been a fantastic weekend'



GREG FURNINGER/STAFF PHOTO

Hundreds of classic vehicles turn Port Colborne's H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park into a parking lot during the Canal Days car show Sunday.

## Marine festival keeps visitors entertained

GREG FURNINGER  
QMI Agency Niagara

It was a weekend in Port Colborne all about celebrating the city's rich marine heritage, whether it be a boat aboard a tall ship, a Coast Guard vessel at the museum or inside a historic ship.

Again the Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, which ran Friday to Monday, drew thousands of people also to vendors along the park, which is a mix of the muscle cars of the '60s and '70s.

Never models also captured the attention of the shurtsburgers. One of those models was Joe DiNoble's 2005 Cadillac

weekend," said Allaina Kane, the city's events co-ordinator.

"Even with a little bit of rain, it didn't deter people from coming out," she said, remarking on Saturday night's weather.

Sunday's attractions included the huge car show at the park, where vintage vehicles from the '30s and '40s were reflected in the chrome of the muscle cars of the '60s and '70s.

"It has been a fantastic

lac CTS, which has an engine painted to match its shiny exterior.

"Although he drives it less and less these days, he said he's hoping to it to become a trailer princess."

While his display was sure to impress his car sponsors, the Burlington high school teacher's visit to Canal Days was also a homecoming holiday weekend.

"I want to support the city, too, because it's good for tourism and business," DiNoble said of his presence.

See DAYS on Page 2

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# UPFRONT

## DAYS



PHOTOS BY GREG FURNINGER/ONI AGENCY NIAGARA

Food and merchandise vendors form the backdrop for this Canal Days scene on Port Colborne's West St.

## Canal Days ends on 'high note'

### From Page 1

Throughout the weekend, Port Colborne's Historical and Maritime Museum offered plenty for people walked onto its King St. grounds through a white picket fence. Attractions included the museum's Exposed exhibit that features glass-plate negatives of early Lake Erie shoreline days and displays of vintage swimwear, bag pipes and a rope-making demonstration.

"The roots of Canal Days is here. We planted the seeds, and they've grown into this great big festival," museum director Stephanie Powell Baswick said.

The festival dates back to a one-day celebration of the Welland Canal's 150th anniversary. Now on its 10th year, \$535,000 budget Canal Days is funded solely on sponsorships, donations and beverage revenues, with no government aid. It has an added \$2.1 million impact on the

community, and draws about 150,000 unique visitors.

Thousands of them visited the museum.

"It's really nice to see that every station is busy," Powell Baswick said, somewhat surprised by early Saturday attendance figures.

"One of the families I spoke to said they came early because they stayed so long last year."

It was also a prime shady destination — "We call it the oasis," Powell Baswick said, during that day which started off hot and humid.

Chubby-cheeked nine-month-old Kolton Habian of Wainfleet, dressed in blue in white sailor stripes, didn't mind the heat as he explored in a giant sandbox for the first time.

"He wasn't liking it at first, but now there's no better place on earth," Angeline Habian said of her grandson. For 11-year-old Thomas



James Fink, 10, and Thomas Kroeker, 11, of Welland spend plenty of their time at Canal Days operating the Great Lakes Model Boat Association crafts at Port Colborne's museum.

Kroeker, who was joined by his friend James Fink, 10, Canal Days provided an opportunity to operate the Great Lakes Model Boat Association's vessels at the museum.

"We never make it out, we're here for the whole day," said mom Laurie Kroeker, noting that it was Canal Days that inspired him to take up RC boats as a hobby.

"This is his highlight." Among other highlights this weekend was a ferried tour to explore Port Colborne's century-old light towers. Kane said a call from Port Colborne brought wind of the rare opportunity and was to come Monday with three or four carloads of lighthouse buffs.

Canal Days' big concerts featured Honeymoon Suite opening for Platinum Blonde Friday, and The Johnstones and illScarlett opening for Moist Saturday. Monday afternoon's musical highlight was a concert featuring Elvis and the Blue Train tribute acts.

For Sunday's fireworks show there was a reward turnout of spectators, Kane said.

"It was the most people we've seen down here in years."

The final day of the festival Monday also drew large crowds.

"I'm down here on West St.," Kane said just past noon, "and every vendor has a line up."

"It looks like Canal Days is going out on a high note."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## CANADIAN COAST GUARD

# Life aboard the Private Robertson V.C.

**GREG FURNINGER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

It's the nation's most advanced crime-fighting tool on water — and it's also home to a close-knit crew.

It was two years ago in Halifax that the Canadian Coast Guard took command of the *Private Robertson V.C.* from Irvin Marine.

Part of Canada's response to 9/11, it is the first of nine *Hero*-Class vessels built or near completion to patrol inland waterways and oceans.

Operating with a crew of nine Coast Guard officers — "Coasties" — and as many as five RCMP, federal police officers, or fisheries officers, *Private Robertson* is responsible for patrolling southwestern Ontario, including lakes Erie, St. Clair and Huron.

"It's the latest and greatest technology we have," says Commanding Officer Steven Pauley, as the ship was docked along Port Colborne's historic West St. for the Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival. "To be the first crew is an honour."

He speaks of a similar honour when referring to the vessel's namesake.

First World War Private James Robertson of Nova Scotia of the 27th Infantry Battalion was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for overtaking a German machine gun unit on Nov. 6, 1917, and later rescuing two wounded soldiers under fire. He died when he was hit by an exploding shell. The private is depicted in his image, hangs in the ship's dining area, or the mess.

The 42-metre-long *Private Robertson* is a top cruising speed of 25 knots and its primary role, as a multi-police agency vessel — "When we work with other agencies, it's like being on the bus," Pauley says — is to provide water security and border patrol to combat such things as smuggling people, drugs, weapons or alcohol. Its sec-



GREG FURNINGER/STAFF PHOTO

Commanding Officer Steven Pauley of the Coast Guard vessel *Private Robertson V.C.*, awaits Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival visitors in Port Colborne.

ondary role is in search and rescue.

It's radars and satellite systems, and communication equipment. It can be found on the bridge, on deck, in the engine room and even sleeping quarters.

Chief engineer Mike Heslinga, who hails from Courtland, Ont., can control all operating functions of the vessel from a touch screen computer in his office.

There are more than 12 kilometres of computer wiring throughout the ship, Heslinga notes during a tour of its mechanical rooms Thursday.

Closed-circuit cameras monitor for safety and security throughout the \$22-million vessel, which the working men and women speak in multiple acronyms. For example, the *Private Robertson* has two RIBs — rigid-hull inflatable boats — and its crew functions as a Marine Security Enforcement Team.

Chief Officer Ted van Gaalen of Amherstburg, Ont., former classmate of Heslinga, both graduates of the Royal Canadian College in Sydney, N.S., has been with the service for the past 31 years. He would have it nicely.

"You have to think outside the box on these types of jobs," van Gaalen says. "It changes the pace of really nicely."

He says public relations opportunities, such as Canal Days, are a great way of not only introducing the tools Canada has to protect its residents, but to engage them in a way that they know they are also important for being eyes and ears of the enforcers.

Unlike in the U.S. where its coast guard falls under its armed forces, Canada's Coast Guard is an arm of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Only the police on board are armed.

The Canadian Coast Guard crew spends two

weeks on 24/7 duty followed by two weeks off, while police rotate shifts weekly.

Acting petty officer and chief cook Larry White of Port Colborne has been with the Coast Guard for 13 years.

"It's given me a quality of life I like," he says, adding he relishes being able to spend longer periods of time with his family.

At 61, White is the "senior officer" on board. He started as a steward, was eventually

recruited and trained to be a chef, and has just qualified to become a logistics, or supply, officer.

"I'd have to be one of the best jobs I've had," White says, adding it up there with his years of running a haberdashery.

Second Officer Elizabeth Terron, of Windsor, says the Coast Guard, too, has offered her a rewarding career.

"It's not like everyday 9 to 5," she says before dashing

off on a supply run. "This is home, this is your family."

The *Private Robertson* patrols April to December. Work in the colder months is concentrated on ensuring its ship-shape for the season.

Life aboard the *Private Robertson*, says Pauley, is always an adventure.

"We fill every moment of the day."

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I'VE BEEN THINKING

# Thinking about change

**FATHER DAVID GRAHAM SCOTT**

St Ignatius of Antioch Orthodox Church

Mother Teresa of Calcutta would often say, "If you desire to change the world, first change your heart, so that you are doing what Jesus would have you do, and then deal with what is at your feet."

Changing my heart starts with turning to Jesus. I need to turn to Jesus every day, if not every hour. Although I am created in the image of God, Jesus is the express image and likeness of God. He is my model. He is my desire.

My church has given me a tremendous key to changing my heart. That key is called the Jesus Prayer. It is a very simple prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Calling myself a sinner is not easy. But the basic meaning of the word is missing the mark or missing the standard of Jesus. So I have a need, as the prophet and king David had a need. In fact he often told God that he was poor and needy.

A Christian from India once said that evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to get food. In the process of changing my heart, I am a beggar asking Jesus to wash me and make me loving and caring by the Holy Spirit. If you don't like calling yourself a sinner, call yourself a beggar, or like David call yourself a poor and needy person.

The Jesus Prayer is addressed to Jesus, who said, "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it" (John 14:14). Anything in Jesus' name means mercy, forgiveness, grace, love.

We pray, Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is Lord. Here Lord means God's name revealed to

Moses in the burning bush, "I Am Who I Am." Jesus is love, divine, eternal and free.

Jesus is also the Christ, the Messiah long promised to Israel by Moses and the prophets. Christ means anointed, and Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism in the Jordan River. Anointed, Jesus can send the Holy Spirit on believers, as he promised (John 14:16).

We pray, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God. Jesus is the eternal Son and Word of God who became a human being (John 1:14), horn of the Virgin Mary. Being God's Son, Jesus unites us to God the Father.

We pray for mercy. Mercy is forgiveness, healing, grace and love from the God who is sacrificial love. We need this mercy. And we need to show mercy to our neighbour, just as the Good Samaritan did (Luke 10).

I usually pray the Jesus Prayer 50 times in

the morning and 50 times in the evening. The repetition of this prayer clears my mind of distractions, so that I can still be in the presence of God, watching and waiting for him.

This repetition also reaches into my heart and soul, so that Jesus can change my heart from a heart of stone to a heart of flesh brought to life in the Holy Spirit.

We are to be merciful as God is merciful. We are to do to others what we would have them do. He said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The second great commandment is to love my neighbour as myself.

Mother Teresa said then deal with what is at your feet, that is, what is near me, like my neighbour, like my family.

The world that I can change for the better is the world right at hand. And so I support my local food bank and I try to encourage the people I know or meet.

## Shipwrecks – Thorscarrier

**SKIP GILLHAM**  
 For QMI Agency Niagara

**T**he Norwegian freighter *Thorscarrier* was built at Uddevalla, Sweden, in 1959.

It first came to the Great Lakes in 1966 and made two more trips inland in 1967. On July 13, 1967, the vessel dropped anchor while downbound in the St. Lawrence River near Cornwall and then ran over it. This punched a hole in the hull and resulted in a significant leak. The damage was repaired and the ship operated until going aground near Karachi, Pakistan, on June 11, 1968.

The ship, also known as *Nordare*, was on a voyage from Karachi to Kandla, India, when driven aground by a monsoon. The ship became a total loss. While refloated, the 142.4-metre-long hulk carrier was only suitable for scrap and recycling. This was carried out in Pakistan.



PHOTO: APRIL 1962 – CAPT. JOHN LOW, COURTESY RENE BEAUCHAMP

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■ **OPERATION DRY WATER:** Police working to keep Niagara's waterways safe

# Keep the beer on the pier

**BILL SANCHUK**  
QMI Agency Niagara

There haven't been any accidental drownings in Niagara this year, and the Niagara Regional Police marine unit is focused on keeping it that way — especially when it comes to boating safety.

The NRP was patrolling Niagara's lakes and rivers over the long weekend as part of Operation Dry Water, a Canada-wide campaign aimed at decreasing incidents and deaths related to operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

"People tend to treat boating as a recreational activity," Const. Tim Eaton said. "They don't think driving a boat is as serious as driving a vehicle because you are in wide open conditions and you are on the water for fun."

Eaton and his partner, Const. Jason Irving, took to Lake Erie last Thursday in one of the NRP's patrol boats, a 30-foot Zodiac twin with 300-horsepower engines that can run at top speed of about 100 km/h. They were looking for 10-foot waves on the lake during the patrol, which kept recreational boats ashore, but the swells were

## THE RULES

- In Ontario, drinking alcohol on board a boat in motion is against the law.
- Boaters can only drink alcohol on boats with sleeping, cooking and washroom facilities and only when those boats are docked or at anchor.
- Anyone caught operating a boat while impaired can face criminal charges and a driver's licence suspension.
- The NRP is looking to anyone caught drinking and operating vessels such as canoes, kayaks, personal watercraft, sailboats, dinghies and other inflatable boats and rafts.

no problem for the durable police boat.

Drinking and boating account for 40% of boating accidents, a Canadian Safe Boating Council news release said.

"If you have been drinking, you can't think as clearly and your skills and abilities are diminished," Eaton said. "There are swimmers, Jet-Skis and other vessels out

here. Safety is of the utmost importance, especially here on Lake Erie. Within 10 minutes you can go from a nice calm day to six- to 10-foot waves, and if you are not prepared, and aren't experienced navigating these waters, you can find yourself in trouble."

"When you get charged with impaired operation of your vessel, the penalty carries over to your driver's licence as well."

The marine unit conducts patrols in parts of Lake Ontario, Lake Erie and the Niagara River. Education and enforcement are their main duties, Eaton said. They are constantly checking boats for safety.

"The majority of our interactions are friendly," Eaton said. "Most people thank us for being out here."

Eaton recounted a time he plucked a grandmother and her granddaughter from the lake.

"They were off the camping area on Long Point on one of those six-foot inflatable dinghies," he said. "No life-jackets. No safety equipment. They had a paddle. There was a northeast wind pushing them out into the lake and



BOB TWCZYZSZN/STAFF PHOTO

Niagara Regional Police marine unit on Lake Erie. They were expecting the civic holiday to be a big weekend on the water and planned to check boaters for alcohol. Shown are Constables Tim Eaton and Jason Irving on board.

they couldn't keep up with the waves."

"My partner and I were on routine patrol, and we saw them and knew they were

way too far from shore. Right away, they asked for help and said they couldn't get back. They were too far out to signal anyone and had no way

to display there were in distress."

BILL SANCHUK@sunmedia.ca  
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# LOCAL NEWS



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■ COMMUNITY: Farmers' markets are growing in popularity, but it's up to the customer to ask where the food was grown

# Local market, local food?

DAN DAKIN  
QMI Agency Niagara

At farmers' markets in Niagara and across Ontario this week, rows of fresh peppers, tomatoes, zucchini, green beans, cucumbers and other locally grown fruits and vegetables will be purchased from farming businesses big and small.

Many workers behind fold-up tables and under pop-up tents that transform empty parking lots into outdoor markets will wear T-shirts with the oft-used slogan, "Farmers feed cities" written on them.

The same mantra is printed on bright yellow cardboard signs in front of many of the family farms dotted across Niagara.

Ontario's nearly 200 farmers' markets generate sales of \$700 million each year, and that is increasing by about 6%

annually.

Much of that push comes from people's growing desire to buy food grown close to the source, the byproduct of which is more support for local farmers.

But what if those fruits and vegetables sitting on those fold-up tables actually came from a massive food distribution warehouse in Toronto?

Would people still feel the same about their local farmers' markets?

With little oversight and a buying public that often doesn't question or pay attention to what's in season and when, it can happen more easily than you might think.

"There's considerable misrepresentation occurring," said Robert Chorney, executive director of Farmers' Markets Ontario, an association representing all but a hand-



Shoppers at the downtown market in St. Catharines buy a flat of strawberries.

ful of the province's markets.

"I don't think it's as blatant in the Niagara region as in other parts of Ontario, but it still happens."

Chorney has seen a lot of trickery and deceit in the industry.

Usually, he said, it involves non-farmers buying food from the large distributors and then passing it off as their own produce.

"Sometimes you'll see a stall where everything is polished and gleaming and it looks too good to be true. There's a pretty good chance they're not a farmer," he said.

This summer, there are 12 farmers' markets operating across Niagara and another three supper

markets featuring mostly prepared-food vendors.

The St. Catharines market doesn't have a high enough ratio of local farmers to other vendors to qualify as a "true farmers' market" under public health regulations.

In Ontario, 51% of all vendors have to be local farmers selling locally grown produce to be considered a farmers' market. But in Niagara, for example, many of the vendors sell snacks, meals, flowers and crafts, so Niagara Region's public health department has a different set of regulations for it to follow.

Chorney said the St. Catharines market is open about the type of operation it is running, and he said the majority of pro-

ducers sell their local produce.

The more serious problem that occurs elsewhere around Ontario, he said, is non-local farmers at bigger markets acting as though they're true farmers.

Farmers' Markets Ontario developed a verification program called MyPICK in 2009 that allows vendors to display a sign if they are true local farmers.

Chorney called out the Peterborough Farmers' market as an example of one dominated by non-local producers.

"It is really controlled by resellers, hustlers and peddlers," he said.

"We have eight MyPICK signs in Niagara and we're starting to make a dent, because shopkeepers are going and saying 'Whoa, these guys are the real deal.'

In St. Catharines on Thursday, there were 10 vendors selling fresh produce and all but two were local farmers.

Some of the 10 were selling 100% Niagara-grown fruits and vegetables, while one farmer said 99% of what he had was grown in the region.

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Come See Us At The Market



See FOOD on Page 7

## FOOD

# 'The exposure of markets is increasing'

From Page 6

The two non-local produce vendors were both selling at least some Niagara-grown products. One had all Ontario-grown produce while the other was selling a mix of Canadian and American-grown goods — all of which were labelled as such.

"Some people buy things (from distributors), but they're not all-local farmers' markets," said Fred Porpiglia, Niagara-on-the-Lake grower who has been selling fruits and vegetables at markets since the early 1960s.

Most of the local farmers said they believe shoppers know what to look for.

"Some people ask questions, or they know by the time of season," Porpiglia said.

When the Niagara-on-the-Lake farmers' market started up eight years ago, the decision was made to make it entirely local.

"In the beginning, there was a small group and the mandate was to support local farming," said Sharon Brinsmead.

Taylor, the market coordinator.

"All of our farmers are 100% Niagara with 100% of their own products. We don't allow anything that isn't grown right on their farm."

Like Chorney, Brinsmead-Taylor said the best way farmers' market shoppers can make sure they're buying local food is to ask questions. "If you have any doubts, ask them. 'What on the table did you grow?'" she said.

Part of the problem, she said, is that people don't understand what should be available during the different growing seasons.

Right now, for example, cucumber, zucchini and lettuce are in prime season, but strawberries are just about past their peak.

A lot of people who live here in Niagara have no idea what's in season at what time, because there are so many fruits and vegetables available year-round through grocery stores and other farmers' markets," Brinsmead-Taylor said.

"There's such a lack of understanding

of where our food comes from and respect for what we can produce in Niagara."

Nicole Cathcart, who was shopping for fresh strawberries, blueberries and greens last Thursday, said she used the trip to educate her two children.

"I thought it would be a good experience to bring the kids down to talk to them about local food and how it's grown," she said.

"I've become more aware of our food and where it's coming from and the environment."

Chorney believes consumers' desire to know more about what they're eating will continue to drive the industry upward.

"Farmers' markets are sleeping giants," he said, estimating the St. Catharines market generated around \$10 million in sales last year.

"Their economic impact would be \$25 million or \$30 million," he added.

"There are eight to 10 new markets springing up every year, and a lot of markets are so successful they're opening up second days. The exposure of markets is increasing."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ COMMUNITY

# Lighthouse tours available

ALLAN BENNER  
QMI Agency Niagara

There's another opportunity to visit the beacons that have led ships safely into the canal for more than a century.

In addition to the Port Colborne's lighthouses that took place on the Canal Days festival last weekend, people will be able to visit the structures during the newly proclaimed National Lighthouse Day.

Erno Rossi and Cynthia Skinner, from Friends of Port Colborne Lighthouses, were at last Monday's Port Colborne city council meeting to have Mayor Vincent Badawey to proclaim Aug. 9 as Lighthouse Day in Port Colborne.

That would nearly coincide with the U.S. National Lighthouse Day on Aug. 7, designated in 1999 in commemoration of the signing of the Lighthouse Act by president George Washington 200 years earlier.

The local organization, during Canal Days, teamed up with Port Colborne

Marine Auxiliary Rescue to ferry visitors to Port Colborne's breakwall to see the structures the federal government declared surplus in 2010.

Last year's tour, Rossi said, was the first time those lighthouses have been open to the public for 110 years.

For Lighthouse Day on Aug. 9, Skinner said tours will be held 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

She said the Friends of Port Colborne Lighthouses members are also involved in the Point Abino Lighthouse Preservation Society, and will run tours of the Fort Erie beacon Aug. 9 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Efforts to preserve Port Colborne's lighthouses started a few years ago when community members formed a group called Save Our Lighthouses to work with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to take over ownership of the facilities, following a process laid out by the government through the Lighthouse Heritage Protection Act.

"It's going to take us a while to really

get ownership of it," Skinner said. "It's a long process. But now, at least, we can do some more long-range planning."

The group is also working to have the lighthouses designated as heritage sites, she said.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @abenner1

GREG FURNIVER/STAFF PHOTO  
Port Colborne's lighthouses, on the east end of the breakwall. The public will have a chance for a close-up look at lighthouses over the weekend.



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■ **HEALTH-CARE:** Applications being accepted online until Aug. 8

## NHS recruiting emergency department volunteers

DAN DAKIN  
QMI Agency Niagara

Nobody wants to spend time in the emergency department, but Niagara Health System is looking for some volunteers to help make those unwanted visits a little bit better.

Among its 1,150 volunteers serving at the six NHS hospital sites, there are currently about 75 working at the emergency departments in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

Their duties range from answering basic questions to patients in the waiting room might have to visiting people in beds and getting them things such as blankets or a drink.

"The volunteer role in the emergency department is critical because of the comfort measures they provide," said Debbie Anderson, NHS co-ordinator for volunteer services.

She said the volunteer pool at the NHS is a mix of retired professionals, students looking for experience and others who just want to give back to the community. The emergency department-specific volunteer program started in 2012, and the NHS is now looking to add some new recruits.

Volunteers are expected to help out for three hours a week at whichever hospital they choose for a minimum of one year, though Anderson said most volunteers stick around for years and often recommend volunteering to others.

"It's a chance for a lot of people to have meaningful, challenging work. They get to make a difference in people's lives," she said.

Rob Smith, a 21-year-old from St.

Catharines, started volunteering while attending Holy Cross Secondary School and has continued helping out through his four years as a medical services student at Brock University.

"What I really love about it is the opportunity to slow down and really connect with people. I like being able to support people through the emergency department process. It's a new experience and people aren't sure what to expect," he said.

Smith, who will head to the University of Toronto in the fall to get his masters, is now a volunteer team leader and got a summer job working with the NHS on a patients intake initiative.

He said he's hoping to end up working full-time in Niagara once his education is complete.

"This experience has given me a vision for my career," he said. "Seeing the system at different levels, my dream is to be engaged as a front-line care provider but also contributing to system-level improvement."

Applications are being accepted until Aug. 8 on the NHS website at [www.niagarahospital.ca](http://www.niagarahospital.ca) for positions that will be filled starting in September with 10 hours of training.

Anderson said people with "excellent listening skills who are friendly and outgoing" make good candidates for the emergency department.

"The main role of these volunteers is to have conversations with patients. A lot of it is patients having questions to ask," she said.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Sagging Port parking lot to be replaced

**ALLAN BENNER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Port Colborne will spend about \$40,000 for a new parking lot behind city hall.

It's a cheaper option than repairing a retaining wall city staff say is crumbling into a neighbour's property.

"Our parking lot is continuing to sag away into a neighbour's property," said Port Colborne chief administrative officer Bob Hell.

"There is an obligation from the city's perspective to at least fix that wall."

But since it'll cost as much as \$63,000 to rebuild the retaining wall and repair the existing parking lot, Hell recommended the less expensive option to "just make it all a parking lot and then we'll have to work with the wall in the future."

When city hall was built about 20 years ago, a retaining wall was added using railway ties to support the parking lot, which was about

two feet higher than the neighbouring property.

Over the years, the railways ties have rotted and fallen into the neighbouring property. And the asphalt parking lot above has cracked because of the lack of support.

Hell's report, approved by city council last Friday, recommends the wall be removed from Charlotte St. "is a nominal value," grading that property to the current level of city hall's parking lot and creating additional parking spaces, as well as two

spaces exclusively for 54 Charlotte St.

The work would also include new storm drains, while eliminating the need for the retaining wall.

Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny said the city should not have been permitted to build a parking lot that was substantially higher than the property next door in the first place.

"How we ever got away with creating that parking lot so much higher than the property next to it is beyond me," she said.

But, she said, the city is not responsible for

the condition of the property next door. "The property behind that building is terrible, and that's not the city's fault," Kenny said. "There are pallets, chunks of wood."

The cost of the work would come from the city's capital reserve fund, as well as unallocated capital financing. Any shortfall would be paid through the city's 2015 capital budget.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: @abenner1



GREG FURNIGER/STAFF PHOTO

The City of Port Colborne will be spending \$40,000 to repair a sagging section of city hall's parking lot.

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## ■ GROWTH

## Port considers development charge moratorium

ALLAN BENNER  
QMI Agency Niagara

Port Colborne's consultant Watson and Associates has recommended a slight decrease in city development charges.

But several city councillors hope to reduce those charges by far more still. If adopted by the city, the recommended development charges for an average urban residential home would be reduced to about \$8,600, down from the current \$9,122.

But with sluggish growth in the city during that past few years, Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele instead suggested a two-year moratorium on collecting development charges in the hope of encouraging development in the city.

Although there are several community improvement plans already in place in the city that substantially reduce or eliminate development charges in various locations in the city, Steele asked planner Dan Aquilina to include consideration of a two-year moratorium city-wide in the final report on the development charge bylaw.

It's expected to be presented for council's consideration by the end of August.

"If we spur on development to build X amount of houses, we could always

get back that dollar value," Steele said. He said the development charges resulting from the community improvement plans indicates a development charge moratorium could encourage development in other parts of the city, too.

Steele said he expected any costs associated with building new homes would be minimal, since areas where people want to live already have adequate infrastructure.

Mayor Vance Barneway asked Aquilina to consider the potential impact on taxpayers, who would be asked to foot the bill for the entire cost of new infrastructure to accommodate new development if a moratorium is adopted.

Besides new infrastructure, Aquilina said, there are expenses such as fire services that development charges cover.

It's hard to quantify what those costs could be, but we'll do our best," he said.

At a public meeting to discuss the proposed bylaw, Niagara Industrial Association chair Roy Timms urged council to follow Niagara Region's lead and eliminate development charges for new or expanding industries.

"We need to encourage, not discourage industrial growth," Timms said, adding several Niagara communities including Welland have also stopped

collecting industrial development charges.

Considering the increased tax income as well as new jobs and investment in the community, Timms said the loss of development charge income would

be recovered within one or two years.

Aquilina said the city has an industrial community improvement plan in place that already essentially eliminates industrial development charges. He said

it doesn't matter if an industry adds two square feet or 200, the industrial development charge in Port Colborne is still zero.

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## IN BRIEF

### Kick Cancer Cup aiding Hope Centre

Wendland soccer fields on Rice Rd. will be a hub of activity when the Kick Cancer Cup in Memory of Julia Turner returns for its third instalment.

More than 20 teams, each

paying a \$100 charitable entry fee to support the Hope Centre, will start taking to the back fields at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17.

Games will be six-versus-six on the field and include players of all ages, whether regular soccer players are those just coming out for camaraderie and to support the Hope Centre. Teams can be a maximum of 10 players

and at least two females must be on the field at all times.

The tournament concludes with a championship game.

"It's all for fun," co-host Daniel Cousineau says of the event named after the 15-year-old Notre Dame College School student who died of a brain tumour in late 2011.

Also featured at the fundraiser will be a barbecue, ice cream, face-painting and draws.

Sponsors are needed to help with prizes and to offset a new \$500 field rental.

Although the entry fee was dropped 50% for the fundraiser, this is the first year it has had to pay for use of the fields since they fell under new management, Cousineau says.

To be a sponsor or to register a team, contact Cousineau at 905-933-5829 or [daniela\\_cousineau@](mailto:daniela_cousineau@)

[hotmail.com](mailto:hotmail.com), or co-host Sam Macsai at 289-228-0090.

More details can be found on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/1pp0Rqv>.

### MP, MPP hosting BBQ, art display

Burgers, hotdogs and artistic talent is being served up by Wendland MP Malcolm Allen and MPP Cindy Foster.

**Continued on Page 16**



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### Ask Our Pharmacists

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Drinking too much alcohol, smoking and high levels of stress can also have negative effects on the heart. If you drink alcohol, limit yourself to no more than two drinks a day for women or three drinks a day for men. If you are a smoker, the sooner you become smoke-free, the sooner your body will recover. Talk to your pharmacist about ways to kick the habit. Everyone experiences the feeling of being stressed at some point or another, but the key is how you handle it. It may be as simple as taking a few deep breaths for some people, while others may do daily meditation or practice yoga to remain stress-free. Taking time for yourself each day to do something you enjoy is another way of keeping your stress level to a minimum. Find a new hobby, activity or project that you might enjoy doing either on your own or with friends.

Decide to make one change this month and maybe add another next month. Before long, you'll be right on track to keeping your mind, body and heart happy and healthy.

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## IN BRIEF

## From Page 14

The New Democrats held their second annual community barbecue at Battie's Beavertails Park on Sullivan Ave. in Thorold this Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There will be free hotdogs and hamburgers, face-painting, a

demonstration by Mad Science and live music.

On Friday, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., a community art exhibition will be held in their Welland constituency offices, both at King and Division Sts.

Art show organizer Holley Corfield

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said 10 artists are participating in the exhibit, and each of them are bringing multiple pieces to display on the walls of the politician's offices. She said the exhibit will feature a variety of art styles and mediums, such as oil paintings and photography.

In April, a similar exhibition called Start Small was held at the constituency offices.

### Man charged after Port Colborne incident

A 34-year-old Port Colborne man has been charged with uttering threats and possession of a weapon.

Niagara Regional Police responded to a house on Clark St. at about 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 7, to determine the details of the police officer's injuries. She said the exhibit will feature a variety of art styles and mediums, such as oil paintings and photography.

The man had left the scene by the time police arrived, but he was arrested nearby a short time later. Charged with two counts of uttering threats and possession of a weapon is Kevin Onis.

### Car show at GM plant

Cars, trucks and bikes are in the spotlight at General Motors of Canada's plant show 'n' shine and open house on Aug. 8.

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# INPORT NEWS DATEBOOK

## AUGUST 8

### CAT ADOPTIONS

Niagara Action for Animals and Niagara Spay Neuter Assistance Program are holding a "Mega Cat/Kitten Adoption Event" this day 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Aug. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fonthill Pet Valu, 20 Canboro Rd., and Welland Pet Valu on Fitch St.

Adoption fee of \$50 includes spay/neuter, first shots and microchip. Contact N-SNAP 289-897-8514 or NAFAs 905-682-4970.

## AUGUST 9

### TRUNK AND BAKE SALE

at Morgan's Point United Church,

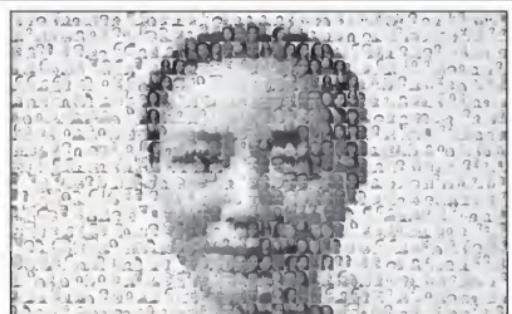
11430 Lakeshore Rd., Wainfleet, 8 a.m. to noon.

### PARKING LOT SALE

at Christianview Fellowship Centre (former Inco hall) at Davis and Nickel Sts., Port Colborne, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### ART STUDIO TOURS

South Niagara Artists



## NO ONE IS ALONE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

No matter where you live or what type of cancer touches you, the Canadian Cancer Society is here to help. Get reliable information, talk to someone who's had a similar cancer experience or receive help getting to treatment.

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14. Proof of age required; \$35 per participant. Pre-register and pre-pay at the library. Space is limited.

## AUGUST 24

### MS BIKE TOUR

Port Colborne's Larry Peyton is in his 10th year to raise funds to help his son who has multiple sclerosis. He has registered for the MS Bike Tour to fulfill a personal challenge, and to help the MS Society fund research, advocate for change, and improve the lives of MSers and their families. It's estimated 55,000 to 75,000 Canadians have the disease, and every day about three more people are diagnosed. To donate go to [msbiketour.ca](http://msbiketour.ca) or call Peyton at 905-834-6205.

## AUGUST 11

### KINGDOM CHRONICLES

— a battle for the truth Vacation Bible School runs at Portal Village Bible Chapel Aug. 11 to 15, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for kids ages 4 to 12. Registration is free. On the Friday the whole family is invited to a free barbecue at 11:30 a.m. Call 905-834-0836.

## AUGUST 16

### BOAT RACING, CAR SHOW

Thunder on the Grand boat races are at Wingfield Park and Main St. in Dunnville, Aug. 16 and 17. The Mickey Wolf Car Show is Aug. 17.

## AUGUST 23

### ROAST BEEF SUPPER

at Morgan's Point United Church, 11430 Lakeshore Rd., Wainfleet. Sittings at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. by reservation only. Adults \$15, children under 10 \$5. Phone 905-899-3626. Air conditioned and wheelchair-accessible.

### BABYSITTING COURSE

From 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the St. John Ambulance babysitting course is offered at Port Colborne Public Library for children aged 10 to

## ONGOING

### ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

Have fun and improve your communication skills, for free at any or all of the Rose City Toastmasters summer meetings July 10, 23 and Aug. 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St., Welland. Visit [welland.toastmastersclubs.org](http://welland.toastmastersclubs.org).

### SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles. Meet and mingle at 1889 1/2 Pub, 115 Main St., 20 Fonthill, every Tuesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Offers a monthly calendar of social activities. Further information, call Lyne at 905-788-0359.



# Classifieds

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| Miscellaneous |
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## Gillespie Auto centre



Chris Mervin, Bob Chalifour, Nathan Mervin, Wendy Poersch

Sales Representative, Sales Representative, Sales Representative, Sales Representative

2011 MAZDA 2 16,050Kms, 5-Speed, Transmission: Auto, Drives: FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.6L, 16V, 100,000Kms, 4-door, A/C, 5-Spd Auto, 6-Spd Manual, \$9,988 + hst & lic.	2012 TOYOTA YARIS 16,050Kms, 5-Speed, Transmission: Auto, Drives: FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.3L, 16V, 95,000Kms, 4-door, A/C, 5-Spd Auto, 6-Spd Manual, \$9,988 + hst & lic.	1998 HONDA CIVIC Si 160,000Kms, 5-Speed, Transmission: Auto, Drives: FWD, 4-Cyl, 1.6L, 16V, 95,000Kms, 4-door, A/C, 5-Spd Auto, 6-Spd Manual, \$8,988 + hst & lic.	2007 MAZDA CX-7 126,000Kms, 5-Speed, Transmission: Auto, Drives: FWD, 4-Cyl, 2.3L, 16V, 95,000Kms, 4-door, A/C, 5-Spd Auto, 6-Spd Manual, \$10,988 + hst & lic.	2009 PONTIAC G6 98,000Kms, 5-Speed, Transmission: Auto, Drives: FWD, 4-Cyl, 3.8L, 16V, 95,000Kms, 4-door, A/C, 5-Spd Auto, 6-Spd Manual, \$14,488 + hst & lic.	16 Lincoln St. Welland JUST WEST OF PRINCE CHARLES <a href="http://www.gillespieautosales.ca">www.gillespieautosales.ca</a> <b>905-735-7151</b>
2004 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT GT 148,000Kms, \$9,988 + hst & lic.	2007 CHEVROLET BLAZER 103,000Kms, \$6,988 + hst & lic.	2008 DODGE CALIBER 126,000Kms, \$10,988 + hst & lic.	2010 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN 76,000Kms, \$14,488 + hst & lic.	2009 CHEVROLET TRAVERSE LS 126,000Kms, \$13,488 + hst & lic.	1 OWNER, V6, Mack on Grey Cloth, Front and Rear Climate Control Only 136,000 kms <b>MONTHLY FEATURE</b>

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## General Help Wanted

## General Help Wanted

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## Miscellaneous

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## General Help Wanted

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